1982

My first recollections of the cobbler's trade stem from the experiences of playing with his tools. My father, who was a mechanic of all sorts, had the tack hammer, the stand and metal shoes, the cobbler's knife, and all the tacks he would need. His shoe repair box was filled with heavy leather for the making of soles. And that is what he did when time and play wore our shoes down to the inners.

I thought that everyone had a shoe repair kit in the storage shed. There I would often play with it — doing what I'd seen my father do. The leather was much too thick for me to carve, but I did manage to mark some of the scraps. I'd even drive a few tacks into my shoes. I remember how my socks would snag on the nails that hadn't been turned enough by my gentle tapping, and how my toes would search out the prickly tips and then avoid them.

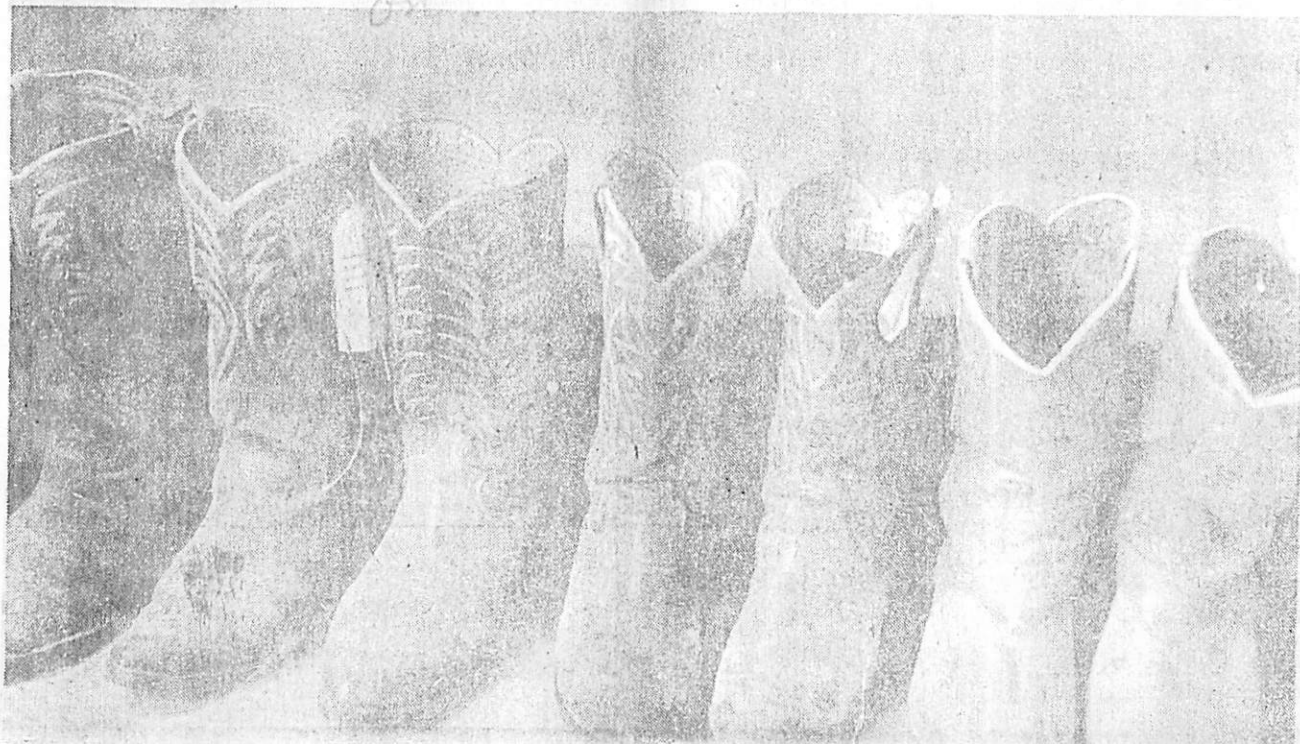
Years later, when money was available or Dad had tired of being cobbler, we'd visit the local shoe store that displayed Buster Brown's, a red goose, and Red Wing's. There, as I'd try on shoes, I could hear the hum of the polishers and smell the pleasant odors of leather and polish. And when the soles wore thin, I'd return them and have the man resole, reheal, and polish them like new. He didn't use the tack hammer like I had done. He stitched the sole to the upper and there was no nail to gouge and pain. I liked that better.

Allen Sabey

Every town had its shoe repairman or shoe shop. It was as necessary as the bakery. Heber still has its — Allen's Shoe Repair. On North Main, in the 200 block, are two of the town's oldest buildings. They are close to one hundred years old, estimates Willis Clyde, the proprietor. In the building on the south is found the shoe shop. Many towns in the West that are capitalizing on the early West decor would love to have these facades on their Main Street, and they'd also love to have the shoe business go along with it.

The facade, of decorative woods covered with paints that have known more winters than I, let's one know immediately that the building is of another age. But, it is no newer than the inside. The multi-linoleumed floor slants down toward the north where the building has taken a more comfortable position. The green walls are pleasant, but they must have seen other colors when former tenants, Dixson and Frank Epperson, used to barber there.

Allen Sabey has been in the shop for 22 years, since he came to Heber City. He lives in Wallsburg, in the home his grandmother owned, and commutes daily

Allen Sabey #1

except Sundays and Mondays to open and work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Allen has been deaf all his life, and has a note pad for writing and reading messages. He quit school in 1946, spent six months learning shoe repair from a deaf friend in Spanish Fork, and with a little assistance went to work for himself..

The wooden shelves hold the shoes that are waiting for customers. Boots, that are too good to be thrown away, seem to be greater in number than other styles. Behind the wooden work bench that holds 27 boxes of shoe nails and a pot of glue whose contents have jsut about enwebbed the nearby adding machine, is the real business end of the venture. There you'll see a Speedmaster auto-soler, a Champion sewer and an Adler sewer, and a Landis K. No. 12. Off to the south, against the wall, is the long Landis grinder and buffer. From there, the smell of leather and polish is strongest, and the sound takes me back to my youth. These are all big machines and they mean business — shoe business. These are names that one always sees in a shoe repair shop. These are machines that last for years. They are the same ones that I first heard and saw years ago.

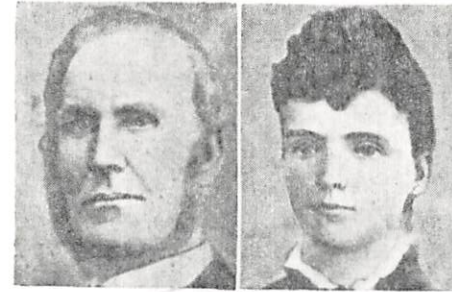
Mr. Sabey doesn't work on boots and shoes only. He will stitch anything his machines can handle. A customer was having a canvas bag worked on while I looked at the big display of shoe laces and examined the contents of the glass-fronted display case. Inside were heals, leather and man-made soles, and polishes. Another customer was picking up a pair of boots for a friend. They had to be buffed and polished so I got to see the Landis come to life and see the brushes eat up a can of polish. Sounds and smells of yesterday!

Through written inquires, I got answers to my questions. Mr. Sabey's days vary in work loads. Sometimes he can sit down and enjoy the brightly burning heater and other days, he'll be making his own heat over the laboring stitchers and grinders.

I'm thinking that, with the number of people who prefer stitched soles to nailed ones, there will be close to 27 boxes of nails on the counter for a long time. In fact, as I go through my organizer for small nuts, bolts, washers and screws, I still run across shoe tacks left over from my childhood adventures into Dad's cobbler kit. I can see him now, with a mouthful of tacks, working the shoe over the metal foot and gently complaining about shoes not being made of cast iron as he drove the tacks home.

Allen Sabey #2

ROBERT HENRY AND SOPHIA JOHNSON SWAIN

Robert Henry Swain was born on March 19, 1832, at Elkam, Kent, England, son of William and Mary Swain. He married Maria Jensen, Julia Anna Johnson and later her sister, Sophia Johnson, whom he married in the Endowment House in 1877. Sophia was

born in Ertmark, Sweden, on November 30, 1855, the ninth child of Jonas and Christena Bringleson Johnson. Robert died on November 18, 1895, at Buysville. Sophia died October 6, 1917, at Daniel.

Robert Henry Swain grew to be a tall man, measuring well over six feet. Because of this he was chosen to be a bodyguard to Queen Victoria.

He joined the LDS Church at the age of 21, and loved it to the extent that, when his first wife could not see fit to join, he left her and their two children and sailed on the ship "Belle Wood" in 1865, working as a cabin boy for his passage. Robert came straight to Salt Lake, settling in the Eleventh Ward.

He was a talented musician and this gift was shared with others throughout his lifetime. He sang and led the choir and played the violin, clarinet and piano. He was a stone cutter by trade, and labored 10 years on the Salt Lake Temple. He also was a carpenter, blacksmith, harness maker, and made his children's shoes.

He married Maria Jensen, and they gave freely of what they had to help other saints to come to Utah. One of these was Julia Anna Johnson, whom he later married. They sent money for her sister Sophia to come also, and in due course he married her in the Salt Lake Endowment House in 1878. To these three wives 20 children were born.

Because of the Manifesto, Robert was forced to leave Salt Lake and, with his two wives and families, moved to Heber Valley in late April, 1888. Sophia was established in Buysville and Julia in Heber. Here he continued his trade, building many of the fine homes in the valley. He also built the Heber Hospital.

His fourth wife, Sophia Johnson, was born in Ertmark, Sweden, on November 30, 185 the ninth child of Jonas and Christena Bri gleson Johnson. Her father was baptized the Church in May, 1865, and in Novembe 1866, she, her mother and two sisters joine the Church. They were converts of Charl P. Carlen.

She and Robert became the parents eight children, five of whom were born Salt Lake and three in Buysville. They are Ephraim, Agnes Sophia, Eli, Joseph F., Ar thur, Walter Edward, Maude Christena and Mary Blanche.

Robert died in November, 1895, of a occupational disease. The night of his buria snow was eight inches deep. Sophia wa left with eigh[illegible] little children, from nin months to [illegible] years of age, to suppor and [illegible] land to care for. Time [illegible] ney scarce, but she bor [illegible] dignity and devotion [illegible] elds with her boys, ofte [illegible] icy water because sh [illegible] d washings for 50 cent [illegible] d on the board.

[illegible] gardless of her trials [illegible] principles, God, he [illegible] was never cross, al [illegible] ul of her own hard [illegible] antly for her family. She knew they had faults, but never became angry or reminded the children of them. Her advice to them was, "Never do anything or go any place you couldn't take your mother with you and feel proud of your actions."

In the evening she would sit in a chair and rock back and forth, looking into space. Her thoughts must have been frightening—eight little ragged and half-starved children playing on the floor.

She was just what the Lord had in mind when He placed woman on earth and told her to multiply and replenish the earth.

Julianna Johnson, who was born June 11, 1849, at Ertemark, Dahlsland (County), Sweden, married Robert Henry Swain about 1873. She was the daughter of Jonas and Christena Bringleson Johnson.

Their children were: Alma, Abner, Enoch, Julianna, Samuel, Hyrum, Heber C. and Emanuel.

The boys were all brick makers and built with brick and were carpenters. They were all good musicians.

Shoemaker Childrens Shoes Add 893

JOHN AND ELIZA ANN WINTERTON THACKER

John Thacker was born June 7, 1867, at Smithfield, Cache County, Utah, a son of William and Rachel Tonks Thacker. He married Eliza Ann Winterton on December 19, 1894, in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born October 9, 1872, at Charleston, Utah, daughter of William and Ellen Widdison Winterton. John died February 23, 1951, at Daniel. Eliza died January 12, 1960.

John Thacker, with his parents, moved from Smithfield to Peoa and later to Heber, then to Buysville.

John always said when he married he wanted to take his bride to a home of their own. This he did. It was a two-room red brick house. He also owned a small farm and a good team of horses. They have lived in the same house all their married life, adding on to it several times

They were industrious, honest, friendly, charitable and hospitable. They always encouraged their children to take an active part in Church work and other activities.

John made a living by farming, raising a few cattle and in the earlier days by team work and hauling lumber from sawmills. He

was a jack of all trades — did a little carpenter work, including barn building, blacksmithing, etc. He made playthings for his children, such as sleighs, cupboards, tables, etc. For many years he repaired the family shoes. He loved children and enjoyed playing with them.

Often in the evening he would take the old banjo down from the wall and sing as he played.

John and Eliza were both active in the Church and community. He helped build roads, canals, the electric light line to Daniel, the culinary water system and the ward amusement hall.

Eliza was especially active in Relief Society for many years, helping with the sick, making burial clothing and ward teaching. She served as a counselor a number of years. John served as superintendent of the Sunday School and was a High Priest.

Their son Ralph A. served a mission to Samoa. Irwin also served a mission. Their son Fay is bishop at Castle Gate and Horton served in the bishopric at Daniel with Bishop Dean Bethers.

John and Eliza worked hard all their lives to provide for their growing family and were good managers.

Their golden wedding was celebrated December 17, 1944.

Their children are: Ralph A., Nellie, Chloe, Fay, Irwin, Thora, Aurtance, Horton, Afton, Weston.

Shoe repair

Leather